

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03

DRC-01 /076 W

----- 004675

R 131457Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 286

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11138

E.O. 11652: EAIR, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES REEQUIPMENT

1. RCAA HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LONDON AND CAIRO. DURING VISIT FARNBOROUGH LAST WEEK, RCAA DISCUSSED SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES REEQUIPMENT SITUATION WITH DUANE WOOD, PRESIDENT LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA. WOOD HAD MEETING WITH MAHDI TAJER EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 8. TAJER ASSURED WOOD THAT HE, TAJER, HAD WRITTEN PERSONAL LETTER THROUGH SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO LONDON TO PRESIDENT ASSAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDING TRISTAR OVER A-300B. HE PREDICTED SYRIAN ARAB ORDER FOR THREE TRISTARS WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS, WITH POSSIBILITY MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT ASSAD ON SEPTEMBER 20.

2. RCAA AWARE OF STRONG PRESSURES BY FRENCH TO SYRIANS SUPPORTING A-300B WHICH COULD COMPROMISE TAJER'S RECENT EFFORTS BEHALF TRISTAR. ALTHOUGH RCAA REALIZES SENSITIVITY OF SECRETARY DIRECTLY SUPPORTING LOCKHEED PROPOSAL, RCAA RELIEVES DEPARTMENT INPUTS ON BEHALF SUPERIORITY US AIRCRAFT COULD BE CRITICAL IN SECURING US TRNSPORT AIRCRAFT ORDER FROM SYRIAN AIRLINES. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE IN VIEW RECENT FRENCH SALES

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SUCCESES MILITARY AIRCRAFT MUSCAT, KUWAIT AND EGYPT.

HIGH LEVEL DEPARTMENTAL INPUTS WOULD PROTECT TAJER'S
FLANKS BEHALF LOCKHEED, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE IS
ACCOMPANYING SHEIK ZIAD FROM LONDON BACK TO ABU DHABI
SEPT 15 OR 16.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: SPARE PARTS, AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 13 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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